

WHEAT HARVEST 1924-5.

27

The Government Statist has now completed his analysis of the January reports from the various wheat growing districts of the State in comparison with the November Reports upon which he issued on December 16th last an estimate of 32,910,000 bushels averaging 13.19 bushels per acre.

The advent of heavy thunderstorms and the prevalence of red rust in a number of the heavy yielding wheat districts since, has considerably lessened the November ^{expectations} ~~estimation~~ for the Lower North Division and also the Western Division. The Upper North Division indicates improvement and the Murrayallee Division will probably more than realize the November estimate. Reviewing the general position in the State, he considers it probable that the earlier estimate will prove to be overstated to the extent of 1,000,000 bushels. No further estimate, however, will be issued until after the actual harvesting results are collected next March.

The following notes from the various reports received are informative.

GENERAL DIVISION.-- November estimate of 7,510,000 Bushels is expected to be realized. In County Fergusson-- Red Rust reduced the expected yield by at least 4 to 5 bushels per acre in the Hundreds of Cunningham, Mulcooortie and Clinton. Notwithstanding this, a good average yield has been reaped. Labor was reported scarce and tractors taking the place of horses. The Hundreds of Kilkerran and Maitland indicate an improvement of 2 Bushels on the estimated average. In the Hundred of Bremer. County Hindmarsh one third of the Oat crop was affected with Red Rust whilst the Wheat crop escaped and will reap better than estimated by probably 2 Bushels. In the Hundred of Gilbert, County Light, Red Rust will lessen the yield by 1 bushel per acre. In County Sturt the farmers were agreeably surprised in the Hundred of Angas to find the reaping ^{running} ~~was~~ bushels better than expected. Some farmers reaped up to 36 Bushels per acre, the average being about 16 bushels. Hundred Brinkley also shows a good increase. In the Hundreds of Freeling, Mobilong, and Monarto the wheat is a good sample and practically free from Rust, though the hay was badly affected in the Hundred of Monarto.

LOWER NORTH DIVISION.-- The November estimate of 12,800,000 bushels is likely to fall short by at least 300,000 bushels. In County Bly the Hundred of Clinton suffered with Red Rust which reduced the yield of wheat from ~~3 to 5 bushels per acre~~ 3 to 5 bushels per acre. The Hundreds of Kadina, Kulpura, and Wokurna are up to November expectations and the Hundred of Barunga should average much better. Round Blyth the Red Rust was bad and the grain reported as shrivelled. Both Counties Stanley and Victoria were affected in certain Hundreds by Red Rust and the quality of the grain depreciated. Patches were destroyed by storms.

UPPER NORTH DIVISION.-- The November estimate of 2,430,000 bushels is confirmed by January reports and may be exceeded by 100,000 bushels. Counties Dalhousie and Frome proved better than the November estimate. The Hundreds of Black Rock Plains, Coomeroo and Perkins reaping up to 5 bushels more than the November expectations. Shortage of sacks at time of reaping necessitated the use of the old strippers in the Hundreds of Booleroo and Willowie. In the Hundred of Tarcowie, weeks of heat ripened the grain too quickly lessening the expected yield by 3 Bushels. 10,000 Bags were reported as stacked at Hawker last season and only about 1,000 this season, most farmers in the County of Hanson keeping their reapings for home use, and the average being so low.

WESTERN DIVISION.-- The November estimate placed the yield for this Division at 4,670,000 bushels. The January reports do not justify an expectation of more than 4,000,000 bushels. County Flinders will be a little better than estimated but in some of the other Counties the crops were very unsatisfactory, especially in Lefthands where the storms caused
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great losses. County Musgrave reports Wheat fair sample weighing well. Stock in good order, Water abundant and Woolclip weighing well.

MURRAY MALLER DIVISION.— The November estimate of nearly 5,000,000 bushels should be realized in this Division. The January reports of actual reappings being satisfactory for all the Pinnaroo District and the greater part of Counties Alfred and Albert, though in a very few centres, Red Rust appeared and the grain was shrivelled. Counties Chandon and Buecleuch appear to have reaped one of the best crops on record.

W. L. Johnston

Statistical Office, Government Statist.
ADELAIDE.
30th January, 1925.

		1923-24	1924-25	1925-26
Number of Establishments	No.	1,509	1,590	1,600
Wages Employed	Wages	27,385	27,385	2,385
	Profits	2,385	2,385	2,385
	Total	29,770	29,770	4,770
Salaries and Wages paid	£	1,341,743	1,341,743	701,743
Value Material Ac. used	£	16,012,332	16,012,332	1,313,371
Value Fuel, Light Ac. used	£	243,433	2,404,736	16,251
Gross Value of Output	£	26,903,773	26,903,770	2,401,773

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GOVERNMENT STATIST.

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